

Belding Lead Soil Sampling



Public Meeting Summary Belding Area Schools Administration Building 1975 Orchard Street, Belding, Mich. January 12, 2011

On January 22, 2011, the Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE) held a public meeting in Belding to discuss the air samples that had been collected in that city. The meeting consisted of a short presentation and a question-and-answer session staffed by DNRE air, and remediation division personnel, as well as staff from the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Ionia County Health Department, and representatives of Mueller Industries, Inc. Approximately 75 people were in attendance.

DNRE staff first provided an update on results of the air monitoring performed since the September 2010, public meeting; as well as information on the emission control equipment that Mueller Industries has recently installed to reduce lead emissions. Next, DNRE staff presented the results of x-ray fluorescence (XRF) screening of area soils and the 12 laboratory soil samples collected by the DNRE. Both the screening and laboratory results indicated that soil lead concentrations exist in some locations above 400 mg/kg cleanup criteria. The DNRE also provided an explanation of the 400 mg/kg direct contact criteria being used to evaluate the concentration of lead in the soil samples. The third portion of the presentation detailed the health effects of lead, the sources of lead exposure and the number of incidences of elevated blood lead-levels in the area. Finally, representatives of Mueller Industries presented their strategy to respond to risks posed by lead in soils surrounding their facility and the coordination between Mueller and the DNRE on response activities in the area.

The question-and-answer session lasted approximately one hour. Questions covered many topics including: the placement of additional air monitors; the adequacy of recently installed controls; if pollutants other than lead were sampled; how the lead in the residential soil would be remediated; why grass doesn't grow in the neighborhood; and whether Mueller planned to continue to operate in Belding.